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BOARD ACTIVITY JULY 15-16—ATLANTA, GEORGIA

I wanted to provide you with a brief update of the recent activities of the State Transportation Board. The Board held its regularly scheduled meetings on July 15th & 16th. In addition to the full Board meeting on July 16th, three committees met in advance: Equal Access; Alternative Financing; and Finance. Below are the highlights of these meetings.

Equal Access Committee met for the purpose of public comment in regards to the currently advertised DBE annual goal. This goal was developed using federal regulations, meetings, assembled data and required steps. GDOT encourages better connection between DBEs, primes and sub-contractors, and strives to ensure fair representation for all minorities in doing work on state contracts.

The floor was opened to allow for comments up to three minutes by individuals in the audience. Statements were made by Cynthia Jones-Parks of Jones Worley & Associates, Cocoa Dunston of Women's Business Association/Dunston Construction, George Galloway of Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance and Sonny Rincon of Georgia DBE Association.

Alternative Financing Committee reviewed changes needed to address the Public Private Partnership (P3) program under the new code section. The implementation plan was started over a month ago and is modeled after one being used in California. The plan will help identify a critical path to successful implementation and the final plan will be vetted by GDOT staff and the Board as a whole.

The goal is to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for P3 to include:

- Rules and regulations
- Internal administrative procedures
- P3 policies
- Staff, Board and stakeholder workshops
- Formulation of a work group to manage the day-to-day issues
- Screening and planning process for new projects
- Schedule of existing projects and decision points
- Template of procurement documents
- Public outreach and education
- Compilation of management tools and reference documents



State Transportation Board Members Brandon Beach, Johnny Floyd and Roy Herrington listening to staff presentations.

During the **Finance Committee** meeting, Treasurer Kate Pfirman stated that the Department is closing out FY 2009 on a positive note. These figures are un-audited, but it appears that GDOT will end FY 2009 in budgetary compliance.

A brief comparison of the FY 2009 and FY 2010 budgets showed a \$150 million variance so funding challenges continue across all programs. There are numerous unfunded needs in FY 2010 including landscaping, mowing and unexpected items such as weather related emergencies.

A special resolution signed by the all the State Transportation Board members recognizing the excellent job Gerald Ross did for the Department while serving as Interim Commissioner was presented during the full Board meeting. Additionally, Commissioner Smith announced that he had chosen Ross to serve as Deputy Commissioner and Sandra Burgess as General Counsel for the Department. Ross will also continue in his capacity as Chief Engineer.

NEW STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEMBER ELECTED

Ocilla Businessman Sidney Ross to Represent CD8

Sidney Ross, of Ocilla, was elected Thursday to the State Transportation Board by a caucus of state representatives and senators from the 8th Congressional District. He will fill the remaining three years of the term of retired Board member Larry Walker.



Board Member Brandon Beach and Commissioner Vance Smith welcome Sidney Ross after his election at the Capitol by members of the General Assembly from Congressional District 8.

Ross, a Georgia native, is a successful business man who owned the road building company Ross of Georgia until 2007. He is married with five children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

"I am grateful for this opportunity," Ross said following the election. "I'm not much of a speaker. I'm really a doer. There is much to be accomplished at the Department of Transportation to ensure the agency serves the needs of all citizens."

The Georgia Department of Transportation is governed by the State Transportation Board. Its 13 members, representing each of the state's congressional districts, exercise general control and supervision of the Department. Each member serves a five-year term and the terms are staggered. Board members are elected by the state representatives and senators whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the congressional district.

LARP Identifies FY 2010 Projects

In July GDOT mailed out letters to all local governments in Georgia asking them to submit their requests for the 2010 Local Assistance Road Program (LARP). The 2010 program was funded \$60 million for the year.

All submittals were due back to the Department by August 1st. Commissioner Smith has directed staff to split the LARP funds into two lettings – one this Fall and one Spring 2010. The District Offices will be working with local governments to coordinate their submittals with the two lettings. Please contact the State Aid Coordinator in the appropriate District Office, or Terry Gable, State Aid Administrator, at tgable@dot.ga.gov.

2009-2010 Board Committee Chairs

Statewide Transportation Plan/Strategic Planning - **Robert Brown**
Administrative - **Steve Farrow**
Equal Access - **Johnny Floyd**
Finance - **Rudy Bowen**
Intermodal - **Dana Lemon**
Legislative - **Brandon Beach**
P3 - **David Doss**
Program Delivery/Consultant Services/Contractors - **Bill Kuhlke**
Transportation Agency Partners - **Emory McClinton**

Next Board Meeting August 20th—Atlanta